

Appl. No. : 10/715, 985
Filed : November 18, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement drawing sheets are submitted herewith for Figures 5-6 and 14. In the originally submitted Figure 6, reference numeral 112 appears in association with two features. Figure 6 has been amended to replace the instance of reference numeral 112 that appeared nearer to reference numeral 52 in the originally submitted version with reference numeral 122. Support for the amendment is found in at least paragraphs [0041], [0045], and [0049] which refer to "tubular lower section 122." No new matter has been added.

In Figure 14, reference numeral 140 in the originally submitted figure has been replaced with reference numeral 40. Support for the amendment is found in at least paragraphs [0023] and [0054]. No new matter has been added.

Figure 5 has not been amended.

Entry of the replacement sheets for Figures 5-6 and 14 is respectfully requested.

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SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

In May of 2007, the Examiner of this application contacted Applicant's counsel by telephone regarding this and several related applications. Within the next couple of weeks, the Examiner and Applicant's counsel held additional telephone conferences. During these calls, the Examiner referred to prior art of record and Applicant's counsel referred to additional prior art that was later cited by the Examiner. Applicant's counsel explained how some of the devices in the specification work and described some of the associated advantages of these devices. Applicant's counsel also pointed out some of the differences between the claimed inventions and the cited references, including U.S. Patent No. 6,923,791 to Douglas and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0101910. The amendments to Claims 1 and 8 in the Examiner's Amendment of May 17, 2007, were proposed and agreed upon.

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REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Notice of Allowability mailed on May 17, 2007. Claims 1-22 are pending.

Comments on the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of the claims. Applicant does not concede that the Examiner's characterization of the prior art is correct or that the patentability of the claims rests on a subset of the limitations of the claims. Rather, the patentability of each claim rests upon the unique and non-obvious combination of all of limitations of that claim.

Amendments to the Specification and Drawings

The foregoing amendments to the specification and drawings correct minor informalities noted by the Applicant. Applicant submits that the amendments are fully supported by the original application and that no new matter is added.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Filed herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement listing references cited by the Examiner in related applications. These related applications have already been listed on a previously submitted Information Disclosure Statement. The Information Disclosure Statement also lists additional references for consideration by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner formally consider the references listed on the Information Disclosure Statement in connection with this application.

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CONCLUSION

The pending claims are believed to be allowable and Applicant requests that the Examiner again issue a Notice of Allowance. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 8/17/07

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